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THOSE 'SCEPTICAL' SCIENTISTS - Editorial

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I UFO REPORTS - Part 5

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Editorial Panel: JOHN HARNEY : JOHN RIMMER : PETER ROGERSON : ALAN SHARP

EDITORIAL

Those 'Sceptical' Scientists

The scepticism for which scientists are frequently berated by ufologists was not much in evidence when Uri Geller visited Britain recently and vastly entertained us all with his spoon-bending tricks.

The editors of the New Scientist magazine were so impressed that they set up a special panel to investigate his allegedly mysterious powers. The science correspondent of the Sunday Times declared himself a believer after seeing Geller perform. Acres of increasingly scarce newsprint were devoted to accounts of his amazing feats of telekinesis, telepathy and clairvoyance, together with the surprisingly uncritical comments of a number of scientists.

Professional magicians protested that they earned their livings by performing such marvels regularly, using nothing more supernatural than misdirection, hidden devices, sleight of hand and showmanship. Also, it was revealed that Geller had left Israel after his methods had been exposed by a group of Government scientists and a court had ruled that his feats were performed by sleight of hand and other methods known to conjurers, and not by some mysterious power. (1)

The professional magician, Romark, made some succinct comments about the whole business. "Scientists are the easiest of the lot to fall for the old tricks", he is quoted as saying. "They are complete Charlies about magic". About Geller he said: "You've got to remember that most people want Uri Geller to be the real thing". (2)

As it is with prestidigitation, so it is with ufology. The unscrupulous and the sensational get most of the publicity. Fantastic speculations take precedence over sober theories. As with other unconventional subjects, the problem with ufology is the credulity of those interested in it and emotionally involved with it, and not the scepticism of its critics.

A RESEARCH PROJECT FOR UFO GROUPS

by John Rimmer

The majority of small local UFO groups operating at present in this country do little practical work in the field of UFO research, as opposed to speculation.

Some groups are however making serious efforts to catalogue and co-ordinate sighting reports in their districts. One such is the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society, who are compiling a catalogue of all UFO reports in the Scunthorpe and North Lincolnshire area, and subjecting them to some basic statistical analysis. This work is as yet only in its infancy, and it is too soon for any statistical conclusions to be drawn from the small sample of sightings that have been dealt with. However the method used by the Group could be emulated by any other local group or individual, and we are giving them in some detail to suggest to some of the more inactive groups the sort of work on which they could be profitably engaged.

There is however little point in any group or individual compiling reports and statistics, or doing any basic research, if this work is known only to a small circle. There is a crying need for some high quality research journals to disseminate the basic data amongst those engaged on UFO research. This is not being done at present.

Firstly, many of the journals are just mouthpieces for group gossip and idle speculation, and do not print articles unless the writer is a member of the group, or subscribes to its views, or has not quarrelled with the editor at some time in the past.

Secondly, the work may be too technical and specialised to be practical for the larger, general circulation journals, which depend on their subscribers for their economic viability. Although FSR, for instance, has in the past published many very important and highly technical articles it is obvious that an FSR composed entirely of such erudite material would rapidly lose a high proportion of its paying customers.

The answer to this problem is not to be found, I fear, within the existing group system. Although individual groups (or perhaps more accurately, individuals within groups) may be doing excellent work, this is too often fragmented by the petty jealousies that bedevil ufology. The need is not for the promotion of ever more UFO groups with their plethora of title-seekers, but for an adequate system of publishing the research and findings of those who are making some contribution to ufology. Recent proposals made to BUFORA by people who were asked to suggest a publishing policy for the Association were poo-pooed by a previous editor of their journal, who dismissed them out of hand as 'impractical and ludicrous'. In truth they were not only practical but essential if UFO research and its findings is to be anything more than the private property of a handful of researchers. BUFORA would be better employed concentrating its efforts on the organisation and dissemination of information than dissipating its energies on observatories, for which there seems to be no practical function in ufology, and devising titles for superannuated officers.

Introduction to the Scunthorpe Catalogue

by Nigel Watson

This is a catalogue of 19 Scunthorpe UFO reports covering a period of 19 years, taken from a file of nearly 50 reports. The 30 reports not included will constitute a future analysis of negative sightings in the Scunthorpe area. The catalogue is completed at the beginning of 1973 and I hope to update all this information once every year or so, depending on the number of reports received. It is advisable that readers see Peter Rogerson's article in MUFOB 5:4, in which he gives his introduction to the International Catalogue of Type I Reports.

All reports coming into the group are recorded briefly on a standard form in this format:

Date	Approx. duration of sighting
Location	Time
Outline description of event: (Case 3/0 given as example) Whilst walking near the (Normanby Park steel) works, Mr Higson's dog, an Alsatian, began to whine for no apparent reason. He glanced to his left and saw, 200 ft. up, drifting to the right, an object round in shape and glowing. It then inclined to an angle of 45° and moved slowly at first, then shot faster into the sky, becoming a point of light.	
Source of report, and interviewer (if any)	
Name, age and address of witness	

The file of sightings was tabulated by various criteria. A time distribution chart shows that the sightings conform to the general pattern that has been observed by Vallee and others. Of the 12 sightings in which the time was known exactly, five occurred between 1700 and 1830, six occurred between 2000 and 2400, and only one occurred after 2400.

An age pyramid of witnesses was drawn up, which also broadly corresponded to those discovered by Vallee and Ballester Olmos. This showed that three witnesses were under 10 years of age. Seven were between 10 and 20, eight between

(continued on page 61)

INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE 1 UFO REPORTS

-- Part 5

compiled by Peter Rogerson

263 1953 0100 CERRO DEL VALLE (ARGENTINA)

Mica miner Eberto Villafane was out looking for guanacos, when he was awoken by malaise and intense heat. Approaching him was a beautiful woman dressed in a sort of light fitting green-elastic mesh garment. Her feet had the shape of serpents' heads, with eyes on the instep. As Villafane fled, the woman settled on his skin bed, which was later found scorched.

(FSR 19, 3)

264 3 January 1953 0400 CRAIG (MONTANA)

Three persons reported an aerial object 8-13 m. long and 6-8 m. thick, with the appearance of "two soup bowls stuck together". There were several lighted windows with what appeared to be a porthole on the side. The object moved slowly at first, then began a rapid climb. The object first appeared at 200-300 m. distance, at about 3-5 m. altitude.

(Atic; Bluebook Status Report 10; Carl Grove)

265 12 January 1953 1300 near SANTANA DOS MONTES (BRAZIL)

While driving, Mauricio Rames Bessa took a short cut off the main road. When crossing level terrain planted in hay, he was surprised to see, ahead of him in the distance, something luminous. The topography of the area caused him to lose sight of the object, which he saw again half an hour later, 6 m. away. It was bright, metallic-coloured, smaller than a Volkswagen car, flat on the bottom, rounded on top, and manoeuvred at 1.3 m. above the ground. The witness stopped his car 2 m. away to observe. Suddenly, after 2 minutes, a door raised up, and two people wearing brilliant lead-coloured suits, with a shining ball on the front of each of their square-toed shoes, jumped to the ground. A third man was seen at the opening, staring out.. All were 1.3 to 1.4 m. tall. One of the men held a cylinder 12-14 cm. long, 3-4 cm. diameter, which he pushed in the ground, then withdrew, leaving a hole 5 cm. deep, 3 cm. diameter. This instrument seemed to change shape in its user's hand, becoming shorter and rounder. The two men walked backwards towards the craft, which dipped down close to the ground to receive them. During all this, the witness began to develop a fierce headache, which became so intense that he was unable to watch the final departure of the machine. When the pain ceased suddenly, no trace of the craft remained.

(P27; Ribera III, 239; Richard Heiden; SBEDV, 55/59)

266 21 January 1953 GRACEVILLE (QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA)

Alan and Arnold Schnitzerling were driving on a country trip, when they encountered a bright light 1 m. diameter, accompanied by a smaller, dull red one. As their truck approached it, the bright light "shot upwards at terrific speed", returned and circled the truck, which it kept pace with for 3.2 km. When they stopped the truck, the light slowed down and landed 200 m. away.

(Hervey, 96)

267 29 January 1953 0100 CONWAY (SOUTH CAROLINA)

As he was returning to his parents' home, former USAF Intelligence Officer Lloyd C Booth heard a commotion in the barn and observed a disc-shaped object, about 7 m. long and 4 m. wide, hovering over a clump of trees behind the barn. It was light grey in colour, lit up inside and resembled a half egg. The witness got under the machine and fired several shots at it with his .22 calibre rifle, hearing several hits before the object took off. Livestock died "mysteriously" in the area after the incident.

(M108; Barker, 50; Edwards I, 33)

268 14 February 1953 LOIS (SOUTH CAROLINA)
An object was seen at low altitude. Witness Marlowe. No further details.

(Table of American Landings; D/N V, 1)

269 23 February 1953 NORTH BERWICK (SCOTLAND)
Undocumented landing report.
(Vallec; D/N V, 3)

270 20 April 1953 PORK CHOP HILL (KOREA)
40 km. northeast of Panmunjom, a shiny wingless machine, 3 m. diameter, was seen flying at about 30 m. altitude, at about 110 k.p.h.. It was first seen by Lt. Julius K Morgan while he was piloting a light aircraft on an observation mission behind Communist lines. Three other officers, two of them in another light plane, reported observing the object for 15 minutes before they left the area. There was a total of 7 witnesses.
(BFSN, Summer 1953; Lor IV, 51)

2 1 20 May 1953 1830 BRUSH CREEK (CALIFORNIA)
Two miners, John Q Black (48) and John van Allen, reported that a silvery object, 2.5 m. in diameter, 2 m. thick, with a tripod landing gear, landed on a sand bar 50 m. away from them. An occupant described as a broad shouldered dwarf wearing clothing that covered the head and trunk was also seen. His arms and legs were covered with tweedlike cloth fastened at the wrists and ankles. He filled a shiny pail with water and handed it to someone in the craft. He then appeared to notice Black and jumped into the craft, which made a hissing sound and departed.

(M109; Humanoids, 53; Lor II, 118; Wilkins Aa, 254)

272 18 June 1953 0230 HOUSTON (TEXAS)
Howard Phillips, Hilda Walker and Judy Meyers saw in the garden at 118 East Third Street a strange shadow on the lawn, which was cast by a "flying man" surrounded by a sort of glow. He was dressed "like a paratrooper" in grey, tight-fitting clothes, with a black cape and quarter length boots, and had bat-like wings. He perched on a pecan tree. After the figure vanished, a loud "swoosh" was heard and a torpedo-shaped object flashed past.

(M110; Wilkins A, 261)

273 20 June 1953 1830 BRUSH CREEK (CALIFORNIA)
John Q Black, witness of the May 20 incident (No. 271), observed an exact repetition of the scene, including the "little man". Van Allen saw only the landing marks, about 30 cm. wide and resembling elephant tracks.

(M111; Humanoids, 53; Lor II, 118; Wilkins Aa, 254)

274 24 June 1953 0018 HAMPTON BAY, LONG ISLAND (NEW YORK)
A civilian woman saw something like a "large aircraft" flying very slowly and low. It had a lighted red band around the middle and was coming straight towards her house with an oscillating motion. She still thought it was an aircraft of some new design when it stopped near her, 25 m. above ground. Then it flew backward over the water and hovered, making the same noise as a swarm of bees. The top section supported a series of red lights and a cabin with four portholes, through which a control panel was visible. No occupant was seen. The cabin rose above the object, rotated, then glided back. The object tilted toward the west, and rose towards the southeast, disappearing within 3 seconds at an 80° angle of climb after the 3 minute sighting. The machine had a diameter of 30 m. Two days later a yellowish moss was observed at the site.

(M112; Atic)

- 275 1 July 1953 (approx. date) 1400 VILLARES DEL SAZ (SPAIN)
An illiterate boy cowherd, Maximo Munoz Olivares (14), saw a "big balloon" on the ground behind him when a faint whistling sound attracted his attention. It was shaped like a "water jug" and was metallic. Through an opening came three dwarfs 60 cm tall, with yellow faces, narrow eyes and oriental features. They spoke in a language that the boy could not understand. They were dressed in blue, and had a sort of flat hat with a visor in front and a metal sheet on their arms. One of them smacked the boy's face, then they re-entered their machine which glowed very brightly, made a soft whistling sound and took off "like a rocket". Footprints and four holes 5 cm deep, forming a perfect square of sides 36 cm, were found by the police.
(M113; B7; Ribera; Humanoids, 29; Ofensiva, July 12, 16, 19, 25 1953; Ballester April 1973 listing)
- 276 31 July 1953 MT. SNOWDON (WALES)
A mysterious object was seen on the slopes of Snowdon. No aircraft were missing and searches were fruitless.
(Wilkins Aa, 258)
- 277 31 July 1953 1900 WOLIN (POLAND)
A metallic object 15-20 m in diameter was observed to land by 5 Polish and 2 German workers as it landed in a field close to the railway. It was shaped like a sphere with a flat disc around it, showing numerous openings at the periphery. It appeared to have Russian markings and the area was cordoned off by authorities.
(M114; Intelligence Digest, November 1953; SK 3, 2)
- 278 16 August 1953 2030 TOURS (FRANCE)
Claude Pasquier saw two discs flying very low, quite slowly, along a straight course, with a "hard" sound.
(M115; Anatomy 65, 141)
- 279 18 August 1953 (approx. date) evening CUIDAD VALLEYS (MEXICO)
Cab driver Salvador Villanueva (40) observed two creatures 1.2 m tall wearing coveralls with wide, shiny perforated belts, metal collars and small black shiny boxes on their backs. They had helmets under their arms. The witnesses thought that they were pilots of Indian race. One of them spoke to the witness in Spanish "stringing the words together" in a strange accent. Trivial matters were discussed until dawn, when they reached a craft 13 m diameter, which the beings entered through a staircase under the lower disc. The witness fled when the beings invited him to enter. The object rose with a pendulum motion and shot up vertically.
(M116; Humanoids, 32; FSR 2, 2; Lor II, 108)
- 280 September 1953 night SANTONA (SPAIN)
On a clear night Sr F Campana saw a solid object rise from the sea about 3.5 km away and fly vertically for about one minute. It was bright blue in colour.
(B3; ERIDANI)
- 281 4 September 1953 2 30 TONNERRE (FRANCE)
A woman saw two objects on the ground and three 1.5 m tall men running towards the craft. They had oversized heads and wore helmets and boots. One entered the elongated object, 5 m long, 1.5 m wide, which spread "wings" that made it look like a butterfly. It then took a vertical position resting on a tripod, and took off with the spherical object into which the other two creatures had gone. Traces were found at the spot.
(M117; GTPA 68, 1)

282 12 September 1953

BROVST (DENMARK)

Brovst was the scene of an attempted abduction of a girl by two humanoids emitting a golden light. Their hands were rugged and cold like a fish.
(M118; Guieu I)

283 25 October 1953

2130

SANTA FE (NEW MEXICO)

Jim Milligan (16) was driving through a park when he saw something fall in front of his car and stopped as the object landed in some bushes. He walked towards it, and found a craft that looked like two ship hulls, about 3 m long, 2 m wide, glued together. When he tried to touch it, the object flew away.
(M119; Wilkins A, 223)

284 November 1953

SKI (NORWAY)

Mr Trygve Jansen was returning from Oslo to Ski with a neighbour, Mrs Buflot, to whom he was giving a lift. At Gjersjoen Bridge they saw an object rise from behind a hill, oscillate over the lake, follow their car and stop ahead of them just above the ground. They stopped and felt "pricklings", until the craft took off vertically. Mr Jansen's watch stopped working. The witnesses felt unwell and had a "prickly skin" that evening and the next day. Numerous people saw that the paint on the car had changed from dark beige to bright green. By the next day it had reverted to the original colour.

(M120; APRO, March 1962; FSR 2, 5; Cramp, 222)

November 1953

PEDRAS NEGRAS (BRAZIL)

While duck hunting on the banks of the Guapore River, two hours walking distance from the village of Pedras Negras, Pedro Serrate and Francisco de Assis Teixeira saw an unusual aircraft which landed on the river, 50 m away from Teixeira, 4 m from Serrate. The craft was 4 m long, 2.5 m wide, 2 m high with a glass structure 1 m high on top. The craft also had a kind of rudder, and two pipes at the rear. In the machine were six people, three on each side (4 men, 2 women). The occupants were of medium height, had red hair, white skin, and a reddish colour on their faces. The women had long hair to the shoulders, plaited at the side. All were wearing thick clothes of the same blue colour as the craft. When Serrate approached within 3 m of the object, it ascended at "incredible speed", disappearing within a second.

(Lor II, 196)

286 December 1953

SHERBROOK (QUEBEC, CANADA)

Mrs Orfei heard a knock at the door in the middle of the night and obtained no answer when she asked who it was. When more furious knocks were heard, her Alsatian dog jumped towards the door, but suddenly retreated, trembling as if terrified, and retired to a corner. Mrs Orfei went up to an upper floor and saw two "indescribable" shadows go away from the house. A little while later a big, round object took off 100 m away with a blue-green lightning. The police found broken bushes as evidence of an enormous weight.

(M121; Oltre il Cielo, Vol 1)

287 12 December 1953

1930

MENTONE (VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA)

Mr G Pretty was driving, with two other men, on the Nepean Highway, between Highbett and Mentone, when his attention was caught by a young couple at the side of the road, pointing to the north east. Between 3 and 4.5 km distant, a disc-shaped object was descending towards the ground. The metallic object was turning and seemed to disappear before it reached the ground. One of the two men in the front seat of the car also saw this.

(Hervey, 89)

288 31 December 1953

QUANTICO MARINE BASE (VIRGINIA)

Marines observed the landing of an unknown round object which throbbed and pulsed and emitted red lights. Occupants were allegedly seen.

(M122; Wilkins U, 210; Table of American Landings; D/N, IV, 9)

- 289 1954 SAO PAULO (BRAZIL)
Undocumented occupant report. Witness, Camhero.
(P31; O Cruzeiro, January 15 1955)
- 290 4 January 1954 2100 MARGNANE AIRPORT (FRANCE)
M. Chesneau, fireman, saw a round luminous object slowly coming down and called the tower to report it. When he came out again the object had disappeared. Alleged traces were found.
(M123; Guieu I, 40)
- 291 February 1954 PEAKSKILL (NEW YORK)
Mr and Mrs Forster stated they saw a craft on the ground, with a woman close by. She was wearing luminous clothing, a sort of hood, and thick glasses, and held a tube in one hand and a box in the other. Mrs Forster had to be taken to hospital in a state of shock.
(M125; Barker)
- 292 February 1954 1900 SAN BERNARDINO (CALIFORNIA)
Mechanical engineer A P Wheeler (32) was driving through the San Bernardino Mountains, when he saw in his headlights an object sitting half on the road, half on an indentation in the bank. The craft was a dull grey metallic colour, and about 8 m diameter. The witness braked 10 m from the machine. He saw it was "like two saucers joined together". Something like a hatch was briefly glimpsed; on this hatch dark markings were seen. The craft began to oscillate, disturbing the gravel underneath. It then went across the road, tipped, then moved away northeast at tremendous speed. The object was observed for 30 seconds.
(Saga UFO Special 3, 42)
- 293 March 1954 1700 SANTA MARIA (BRAZIL)
Ruben Hellwig was driving when he saw a football-shaped machine, the size of a Volkswagen, on the ground. He walked towards it and met two men of slim build, normal height, their faces brownish, wearing no helmets. One was inside the object, while the other collected grass samples. They spoke to Hellwig in a strange language, and yet he said he understood they were asking for ammonia. He directed them to a nearby town. The craft vanished silently and instantly with blue and yellow flames.
(M126; Diaro de Noticias, 25 August 1965; Humanoids, 33; FSR 13, 1; Lor II, 109)
- 294 March 1954 early SANTA MARIA (BRAZIL)
Ruben Hellwig again saw a strange machine the next day. He observed a tall, fair-complexioned man and two women, who had light brown skin, long black hair, dark slanted eyes. All three wore one-piece garments of a fabric resembling suede, with zippers. They told Hellwig that they were scientists, spoke of the natural riches of Brazil, and expressed surprise that he did not run away.
(M127; and as for M126)
- 295 17 March 1954 TODD RIVER DOWNS (NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA)
An aboriginal was riding a horse over a low ridge, when a spherical object, c. 13 m diameter, nearly threw him from his horse. The object rose suddenly with a "heavy wind", a rumbling noise, and trailed four columns of smoke. It was also seen by other aboriginals, and a grazier Mr E Whipple, who reported that the object, travelling very fast at only 30 m altitude, turned at right angles just beyond the roof of his house.
(M124; BFSN, 6; Wilkins U, 211; Hervey, 98)
- 296 22 April 1954 1400 SAN NICHOLAS ISLAND (CALIFORNIA)
American military personnel saw a cigar-shaped object of grey colour coming to the ground. Smoke was seen to rise where it landed, but a search yielded no results.
(M128; Atic.)

297 May 1954 (approx. date) midday NORCO (CALIFORNIA)

A couple and their five-year-old daughter had just sat down to their midday meal, when they became aware of a metallic drone which increased in volume. The wife and child went to investigate. They saw, passing through the haze, passing over their heads, and hovering over a tree 5 m away, an "aluminium" coloured, cylindrical object with narrowing ends. It was about 7 m long, 3 m wide, with no visible features except a transparent dome on top, in which 5 men were sitting. These men wore "neutral coloured" suits, dark eyes and hair, long faces, dull olive skins, and wore helmets. The witnesses felt that the men were staring at them with "a cold scientific mind". After about a minute the droning increased again, and the craft moved off into the haze.

(FSR 14,3)

298 18 May 1954 1900 CANNON AIR FORCE BASE (NEW MEXICO)

Two people witnessed the landing of a lens-shaped object the size of a house. It came to the ground near the railroad tracks, kicking up a small sand storm in the desert. One witness first decided to approach it, then ran away in fear.

(M129; Binder)

299 20 May 1954 0200 BRUTON (ENGLAND)

Nigel Frapple was cycling home from a dance in Wincanton. At Redlynch crossroads he saw an orange glow in a field and observed it from a hedge. It came from a huge object 35 m away, less than 7 m above the ground, and which made a throbbing sound. After 1 minute it moved towards the north west, accelerating and climbing.

(M130; Sunday Dispatch, 13 June 1954; Humanoids, 3; BFSN, 6)

300 30 May 1954 0025 EAST MALVERN (VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA)

Radio announcer Christopher Muir (22), radio station employee David Reese (18), and four other people, saw a glowing oval object "the size of a tram", descend rapidly on a curving trajectory to about 20 m, then curve upwards emitting a cloud of orange yellow smoke from the rear. It appeared to disappear in mid-flight. Three of the witnesses saw "shadowy figures" in the transparent object. Observed for about 5 seconds.

(Holledge, 54; Wilkins U, 47)

301 June 1954 (approx. date) 1000 BENGOUGH, near HARPTREE (SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA)

A farmer living 800 m south of Harptree was pumping water in his yard, when he heard a "droning" sound. A circular object was moving between the house and shed at an altitude of 6 m, at a speed of about 130 kph, on a north to south course. The machine looked as if it were made of translucent metal or plastic, had a diameter of about 17 m, and through a window two figures wearing luminous suits, with darker helmets and goggles, were seen. Between the two figures was something resembling a "stick shift...like today's cars". The craft appeared to suck up the ground "just like a big whirlwind or big vacuum" as it passed.

(D/N, V, 7; SSS, 62)

302 9 June 1954 1820 EAST DANDENONG (VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA)

Janette Brown (16) and a 13-year-old friend, Jeanette Johnston, heard a loud noise and saw a large dark object that "burst into light" hovering 20 m away at the height of a factory gate. It was cylindrical, 10 m long, 5 m high, with a canopy on top. It flew away and was lost to sight behind some trees.

(M131; Wilkins U, 216; Hervey, 74)

303 15 June 1954 FOUR ELMS (ENGLAND)

A yellow light, accompanied by two smaller blue ones, one on each side, rose from the ground with a rushing sound, and moved in a "slow curve" towards London.

(Kent and Sussex Courier, 18 June 1954; BFSN, 6)

- 304 21 June 1954 RIDGEWAY (CANADA)
Mr and Mrs Guy Baker saw a disc, about 14 m diameter, with a dome and several rotating lights. They stopped their car when the disc landed in a field beyond a wooded area. The car then had to be pushed, as it could not be restarted until the disc had left the ground. They found a large, brown, circular spot in the field where the disc had been resting.
(M132; FS, September 1962; Lor IV, 57)
- 305 25 June 1954 2325 SEIGHFORD (ENGLAND)
4 km from Stafford, the Rev. Cedric Wright was looking through his bedroom window when he saw an illuminated, domed "crab-like" object, with a halo above it and projections, hovering at 25 m altitude, not more than 400 m away. The object was of a golden colour and about 8 m diameter. The vicar was joined by his wife and 22-year-old son, and all three watched the object move backwards and forwards in sweeps of about 1 km in length for two hours, until they finally went to bed. No sound was heard.
(Gibbons, 55)
- 306 Summer 1954 daytime TENTERDEN (ENGLAND)
Maureen Garner suddenly encountered, in her house, a very tall man dressed in a metallic-blue, seamless "siren suit" and translucent helmet. The man had a high forehead and cheekbones, slit lips, pointed chin. Appearing to lack a lower jaw, the lower part of his face appeared curiously immobile. The witness felt compelled to look at the man's eyes. After a time he "just disappeared".
(COSMOS 1, 7)
- 307 6 July 1954 (approx. date) GARSON (BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA)
Miner Enzo Lasarza saw a landed object 8 m diameter, with numerous projections. From it emerged 3 men, over 4 m tall, with strange burning eyes which made the witness faint. When he regained consciousness, the object and beings had vanished. Investigated by the Royal Canadian Air Force.
(M133; Keyhoe C, 184; BFSN, 6)
- 308 20 July 1954 OSLO (NORWAY)
Near this city, two men were chased by an object and stopped their car to observe it. After the sighting, a watch stopped working and the paint on the car allegedly changed colour. Cf case 284.
(M134; Verdens Gang, date unknown)
- 309 August 1954 (approx. date) 2015 NEW YORK (NEW YORK)
130 km before New York, members of the crew of the Netherlands Government ship "Groote Beer" observed a flat "moonlike" object rise out of the ocean. Captain Jan Boshoff observed it through binoculars. It was grey, but turned brighter on the lower part. It also had bright spots resembling lights around the edges. Third Officer Cornelius Kooey measured the object at 60° to the south west. Its speed was 32 minutes of arc in 1½ minutes of time.
(Fate, March 1955; Sanderson II, 37)
- 310 10 August 1954 2130 HEMMINGFORD (QUEBEC, CANADA)
The Coupal children said that a brightly lighted object followed them to the farm. Mr Coupal and his eldest son went to the field where the children had been playing and saw an orange object rise and speed off to the west. Grass was flattened over 15 m, with two tracks about 5 m long.
(M135; Wilkins U, 237)
- 311 23 August 1954 (approx. date) VARENNES, near DIGES (FRANCE)
A strange object hovered low over the house of Mr Lucas and left straight up.
(M136; L'Yonne Republicaine, 28 September 1954)

312 23 August 1954

LUGRIN, near THONON (FRANCE)

Elise Blanc approached an object looking like an aluminium trailer with two small beings in silvery dress, grunting like pigs, standing close by. The craft took on a fiery colour and flew away.

(M137; Challenge, 129)

313 27 August 1954

2030

BOSTON CREEK (ONTARIO, CANADA)

A wingless flying object was seen by Bill Supa, an employee of the Caswell Construction Co. It landed about 2 km away from the witness, who approached to within 300 m before it took off and flew away. Grass was flattened where it had landed.

(M138; Wilkins U, 227)

314 28 August 1954

HEMINGFORD (QUEBEC, CANADA)

Mrs Coupal and her two sons observed a spherical object land. From it emerged two or three men about 2.20 m tall. They were dressed in black, and had "big round eyes". cf case 309.

(M139; Constance, 277; BFSN Bulletin, 6)

315 30 August 1954

0525

NORTH BAY (ONTARIO, CANADA)

Sgt. Durdle saw a brilliant circular object flying across Lake Nipissing towards the Royal Canadian Air Force base. An oblong canister was hanging down from a central section, which supported a long cone with a spinning globe on top. When it tilted, the witness was able to observe regulator-like devices inside the machine through a vertical slit. Six brilliant appendages, which looked like necklaces, were hanging from the craft. Durdle woke up four Air Force men, who observed the object spiralling away.

(M140; Wilkins U, 227)

316 3 September 1954

SOUK-EL-KHEMIS (TUNISIA)

Many workers in the fields 12 km south of the town saw an object apparently made of transparent plastic fly over the houses, stop on edge, and swing like a pendulum a few metres above the ground. It made several erratic jumps, then resumed its horizontal position and flew away.

(M141; Depeche de Tunisie, 14 October 1954)

317 7 September 1954

0715

HARPONVILLE (FRANCE)

Between Harponville and Contay, two bricklayers, Emile Renard (27) and Yves Degillerboz (23) saw an object floating in mid-air over a field: "It looked like an unfinished haystack, with a plate turned upside down on top of it". When they approached, it took off. It had a diameter of 10 m, height of 3 m. A kind of door was noticed. The observations lasted over 3 minutes. The object released smoke when it departed.

(M142; Le Figaro, 9 September 1954; Michel II, 35)

318 10 September 1954

2030

MOURIERAS (FRANCE)

A farmer, Antoine Mazaud, was walking home when he was suddenly confronted with a helmeted being of average height who made friendly gestures, then went back into the bush, entered a cigar-shaped object about 4 m long, which took off towards Limoges. A few minutes later, witnesses in Limoges reported a disc-shaped, red object leaving a bluish trail.

(Le Parisien, Combat, L'Aurore, 14 September 1954; Paris Presse, 16 September 1954; Michel II, 40)

319 10 September 1954

2230

QUAROUBLE (FRANCE)

A metal worker, Marius Dewilde (34), came out of his house as a dog was barking and saw a dark object on the railway tracks, then observed two dwarfs walking towards it. When he tried to stop them, he found himself paralysed as a strong orange light was projected at him. The creatures were under 1 m tall, bulky, and wore dark diving suits. No faces or arms were visible. Traces made by an object of estimated weight 30 tons were noted, by French Air Force and police,

Notes

- 263 This tale should be treated with some suspicion.
 265 Our thanks go to Richard Heiden of Milwaukee for translating this report from Ribera III. The location given by Periera (San dos Montes) is incorrect.
 268, 269 The only information on these cases is from the respective tables.
 270 This report is rather marginal as regards its Type I classification.
 277 This report should be treated with great caution. It could well be a typical "refugee tale".
 281 The exact reference to this report cannot be found. A quick look through the English edition of Guieu failed to find this case.
 284 Cramp gave the date as 1956. That is probably incorrect.
 288 Vallee, in the list of North American landings, indicates occupants were seen, but no details of this are given in the Magonia summary, unless the "red lights" are classed as occupants.
 295 Wilkins gives the impression that the date is February. Hervey gives the date as April.
 299 There are some suspicious features about this story. See BFSN.
 300 Misinterpretation of fireball?
 303 Firework?
 305 Type I classification marginal.
 306 Ufological significance not clear.
 307 This story should be treated with extreme suspicion. Some accounts talk of the beings as having three pairs of arms!
 308 This looks very much like a distorted account of case 284.
 314 This might be the same as case 309 -- many details are missing.

Introduction to the Scunthorpe Catalogue (continued from page 52)

20 and 30, two aged from 30 to 40, one each between 40 and 50, and 50 and 60, and two aged between 70 and 80.

A study of the activities of primary witnesses at the times of the sightings reveals that 12 were out walking, three were at home, one at school, two not known. Interestingly, only one witness in the 19 cases investigated was on a vehicle at the time of the sighting, and that was a bicycle.

The number of witnesses to individual sightings also corresponds to the findings of researchers working on larger samples. Most of the cases, 13, had only one witness. Two cases had two witnesses, three cases had three witnesses, and one case had five witnesses. The disparity in the number of male witnesses to female seems to be artificially exaggerated by the small sample available for analysis, males outnumbering females by 20 to 11.

The majority of cases dealt with in this sample occurred in the 1971 'flap', the distribution being thus:

11 Nov 1953	1 case	*****
Winter 1968	1 "	*
26 Apr 1969	1 "	*
Dec 1969	1 "	*
20 Nov 1970	2 "	*
5 Aug 1971	1 "	*
25 Oct 1971	1 "	*
27 Oct 1971	4 "	*
28 Oct 1971	2 "	*
13 Nov 1971	2 "	*
19 Nov 1971	1 "	*
17 Aug 1972	1 "	*
3 Oct 1972	1 "	*

 much wasteful duplication of effort, and seems to be yet another symptom of the extraordinary jealousy and secrecy that surrounds

UFO investigation in this country.

As has been emphasised throughout this analysis of the Scunthorpe sightings, this is based on a very small sample of 'positive' reports, which is on its own too small to draw any conclusions. However a properly constituted central clearing house could be receiving similar reports from groups and individuals throughout the country, producing a more representative sample, from which more significant statistical studies could be drawn. At present this is not happening, certainly not to the extent to which it is happening in France, Spain, or the Midwestern states of the USA. This appears to be due in equal part to the lack of any determined effort by the major UFO groups to co-ordinate reports sent in to them, (Indeed, when the Scunthorpe reports were submitted to one of the major journals they were rejected in a most cursory fashion.) and to the general apathy of most local groups to doing anything other than sit around in their meeting rooms swapping idle speculations. In these circumstances the serious researcher is often discouraged by the sheer weight of apathy and the impossibility of either publishing his own work, or reading the findings of others.

I do not want to appear totally negative however, and I do appreciate that much good material is being published, especially in the journals that are not attached to any particular group. But they are subject to the problems of keeping their subscribers happy, and many of these subscribers are only interested in ufo-logy in a very superficial manner. The immediate need, as far as statistical analysis of reports is concerned, is a medium for the publication of material such as Nigel Watson's Scunthorpe catalogue and analysis. It may seem incredible, but there is at the ~~present~~ moment no British journal aiming to record every publicly notified UFO sighting in this country. The UFOLOG section of BUFORA Journal now just publishes cases dealt with by the Association. FSR's 'Round-up' is an attempt to summarise major sightings throughout the world and cannot, for space reasons alone, attempt a total summary of all British events. This very fundamental lack of a source of raw data is an inhibiting factor to serious UFO research in Britain today.

MUFOB has never been primarily a source of UFO sightings nationally. Its main function is as a forum for ideas and comment, and as a medium for the publication of research. The pages of this Bulletin are always open to the kind of large-scale statistical analysis, or specialised technical article, that the larger circulation journals may have to think twice about publishing.

BOOK REVIEWS

Cults of Unreason by Dr Christopher Evans. Harrap, £3.00

In this book Dr Evans examines four aspects of modern cultism: Scientology, the UFO cults, the medical "Black Box" cults, and the quasi-Eastern occult groups.

The ufologist coming to this book can only be disappointed by the chapters dealing with his speciality. The first of the three chapters is a re-hash of the contactee stories of the fifties. It gives nothing that will not be familiar to most readers of this Bulletin. The major part of the ufological section is devoted to the ubiquitous Aetherius Society, a subject which was dealt with in Patrick Moore's recent book. The fascination that this completely untypical UFO cult seems to have for writers is quite remarkable. The fact that its history is well documented in its journals, and its HQ conveniently situated in Kings Road, Chelsea, may of course be a factor in this. The "cult of unreason" that has

built up in Warminster is mentioned only in passing, and serious ufologists must regret that Dr Evans has not researched some of the less well-known aspects of this affair, rather than waste space on the already over-exposed Aetherius Society.

The chapters on the various pseudo-medical cults built around "Black Box" diagnostic devices give valuable insight into the curious and rather sad world of the cultist, although the chapters dealing with the various brands of Eastern mysticism currently fashionable are rather superficial, as is virtually inevitable when trying to cover so many subjects in a limited space. Dr Evans' revelations about Lobsang Rampa, although not new, will be unfamiliar to many ufologists.

However, the most valuable part of the book is the first and longest section dealing with Scientology. Here Dr Evans treats the growth of the movement, from the Dianetics of the 1940s, to the dramatic events of the late sixties, dealing with a complicated, at times barely comprehensible subject in a very readable and amusing manner. Perhaps the major surprise of this book is that after dealing at length with the "unacceptable face" of Scientology, his ultimate conclusion on the value to the individual and possible future development of the cult is far from dismissive.

Summing up, the book is well written and interesting, but I doubt if many ufologists would feel obliged to spend the not inconsiderable sum of £3 on a book which will tell them little new about their chosen subject.

--- John Rimmer

Can You Speak Venusian? - A guide to the independent thinkers, by Patrick Moore. David and Charles, 1972. SBN 0 7153 5691 7. £2.75

This collection of Moore's experiences with pseudo-scientists, both notorious and unknown, is a disappointing work. The treatment never rises above the superficial. There is, for example, no attempt to discuss the psychological and sociological factors which generate pseudo-scientists, and account for the popularity which people such as Velikovsky, Adamski and Von Daniken undoubtedly possess. The extent of his researches seems to be very limited; his treatment of the historical perspective of many of the beliefs is poor. He seems, for instance, quite unaware of the contemporary "hollow earth" cults in the United States, and his treatment of several other topics is extremely sketchy.

Moore claims to admire "independent thinkers", but one cannot help wondering how sincere he is: almost all the people mentioned in the book are espousing views which are, safely, too absurd for anything. The general theme of all these independent thinkers seems to be reactionary; they postulate a variety of geocentric, anthropocentric, "womb cosmoses". All very far removed from the radical expansionism of Copernicus and Bruno, to which Moore compares them. Moore gives his accolade to these barmotes, yet ignores really independent thought from scientifically qualified personnel. He seems to be completely ignorant of serious parapsychology and ufology. A bare mention of Rhine, none of Hynek, Heuvelmans, or even such borderline figures as Dingle, Thom, Heyerdahl, etc.

As might be expected, Moore's treatment of UFOs is as superficial as the rest, being limited to Adamski, Allingham, Shuttlewood, the Aetherius Society, Bernard Byron with his Plutonese and, from the sidelines, Von Daniken. Apparently Moore regarded them all as sincere. Whether that was meant to be taken seriously or not, I cannot say. You'll be sorry to learn that Moore didn't catch the Warminster bug on the top of Cradle Hill after all:

"After some time, however, I persuaded the team to dim the illuminations, and we began to see luminous specks crossing to and fro amongst the stars. I thought that they were artificial satellites, but Arthur assured me that they were Saucers, and I concentrated on trying to train my binoculars on them. We also saw a glow in the sky, and again there was a difference of opinion; Arthur maintained that it was connected with interplanetary craft, and rejected my suggestion that it was a low flying cloud illuminated by the moon. We stayed for some time, but

after twelve o'clock it became clear that nothing more was going to happen, and we decided to call it a day—or rather a night".

What struck me in reviewing this work was the similarity between Moore and many of the cranks encountered in ufology; the same incapacity to present sustained, rational arguments; the wandering into side issues and attacks on opponents (Throughout the book there are quite irrelevant attacks on "child psychiatrists", the modern education system, "student jobs", with which Moore seems to have a neurotic obsession.); the tendency to resort to invective and arguments from authority; (I remember a TV programme in which Moore almost went into fits when a scientist challenged his views on space travel.) the presentation of issues in extreme black-and-white terms, etc. Moore often appears sympathetic to the "space brother" notion, and his extreme opposition to ufology (which at the same time obsesses him) is an attempt to exorcise these irrational impulses from his own mind. Furthermore, Moore is not a scientist, he has absolutely no formal academic qualifications. Has this given him a sense of insecurity, so that he must continually prove himself more scientific than the scientists themselves? We can leave discussion of Moore's motivations to the psychologists that he despises so much. It would be a pity for ufologists to regard him as a representative scientist. This would be as unfair to the scientific community as would regarding Arthur Shuttlewood as a representative ufologist be to ufologists.

— Peter Rogerson

NOTES QUOTES & QUERIES

John Rimmer marries

The wedding took place of John Rimmer and Miss Judith Tyrer, on 19 October 1973, in Liverpool.

Tatty cover

Apologies for the tatty, duplicated cover on this issue, replacing the usual artistic productions designed by John Rimmer. We hope to be back to normal next issue.

Phantom helicopter

As this issue is being printed, considerable publicity is being given to reports of an alleged helicopter seen flying by night, at low altitudes over parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire. We hope to publish a round-up of these reports in our next issue.

PLEASE NOTE JOHN RIMMER'S NEW ADDRESS..... See below.....

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